

EOS Submission

Introductory paragraph:

The amount of available data is growing exponentially, and the landscape of tools for analyzing and sharing data is evolving rapidly. These trends, in the context of a changing scientific culture, are leading to fundamental shifts in the practice of science—presenting both great opportunities and great challenges.

A unifying vision is needed to guide the development of cohesive, effective strategies and policies and address the data grand challenges that span multiple domains and organizations.

Members of the Federation of Earth science Information Partners (ESIP) and representatives from the National Research Council (NRC) have been discussing the possibility of a high level study to accomplish that convergence. In July 2013, a plenary discussion at the Summer ESIP meeting brought these issues into focus as panelists considered the need and feasibility of establishing an NRC study on data developments, management, and stewardship in the Earth sciences realm.

This paper builds on the ongoing ESIP/NRC conversation to outline the data opportunities we face, ongoing efforts in this realm, and a potential path forward.

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